

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, JA, KS
SUBJECT: KOREANS PUSH FOR RATIFICATION OF CONTINENTAL SHELF
TREATY

SUMMARY: IN RESPONSE TO STRONG PITCH BY HIGH-LEVEL KOREAN
VISITORS TO TOKYO FOR JAPANESE RATIFICATION OF LONG-DELAYED
CONTINENTAL SHELF TREATY, GOJ PROMISED TO PUSH FORWARD ON
TREATY IN DIET. CHANCES FOR RATIFICATION ARE NOT TOO
BRIGHT, HOWEVER, GIVEN PRESENT JAPANESE POLITICAL PRE-
OCCUPATION WITH ALLEGATIONS OF ROK PAYOFFS TO LDP. END SUMMARY

1. CENTRAL TOPIC OF MEETING FEBRUARY 17 BETWEEN FORMER
ROK PM KIM CHONG PIL, IN TOKYO FOR MEETING OF JAPAN-ROK
DIETMEN'S LEAGUE, AND PM FUKUDA, WAS JAPAN-KOREAN CONTINENTAL
SHELF TREATY. KIM URGED SPEEDY JAPANESE RATIFICATION OF
LONG-DELAYED AGREEMENT, WHILE FUKUDA, STRESSING "COOPERATION
IN AN AGE OF LIMITED RESOURCES", PROMISED TO ATTEMPT
TO OBTAIN DIET APPROVAL DURING CURRENT SESSION.
FUKUDA, HOWEVER, STOPPED SHORT OF PREDICTING RATIFICATION CHANCES.
(ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN, REMAINDER OF KIM-
FUKUDA DISCUSSION CONCERNED NEED TO AVOID TRADE FRICTIONS
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BETWEEN JAPAN AND KOREA; QUESTION OF U.S. TROOP REDEPLOYMENT
FROM ROK WAS REPORTEDLY NOT DISCUSSED.) KIM REPEATED
HIS PITCH FOR TREATY RATIFICATION IN COURTESY CALLS ON
LDP SEC GEN OHIRA, LH SPEAKER HORI, AND UPPER HOUSE
PRESIDENT KONO.

2. ACCORDING TO FONOFF PRESS RELEASE, ROK FONMIN PARK

TONG JIN ALSO URGED TREATY RATIFICATION IN FEBRUARY 17 EVENING MEETING WITH FONMIN HATOYAMA. LATTER IN TURN REAFFIRMED PM'S POSITION -- THAT GOJ WOULD MAKE "EARNEST EFFORTS" FOR APPROVAL AT CURRENT DIET SESSION.

3. IN RESPONSE TO BENIGN DSP DIET INTERPELLATION FEBRUARY 17 PM FUKUDA DENIED THAT RATIFICATION OF KOREAN CONTINENTAL SHELF TREATY WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT JAPAN'S RELATIONS WITH CHINA. HE SAID GOJ HAD OFFERED TO DISCUSS ISSUE WITH PRC BUT AS YET HAD RECEIVED NO RESPONSE, AND JAPAN COULD NOT WAIT INDEFINITELY FOR CHINESE REPLY INASMUCH AS THAT WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO JAPAN'S ENERGY POLICY. ON SAME DAY, JSP DECLARED IT WOULD LAUNCH "NATIONWIDE MOVEMENT" AGAINST RATIFICATION OF KOREAN CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT; JCP AND KOMEITO HAVE ALREADY ANNOUNCED THEIR OPPOSITION TO TREATY.

4. COMMENT: WE ARE INCLINED TO AGREE WITH MOST POLITICAL OBSERVERS IN TOKYO THAT THERE IS LITTLE CHANCE FOR RATIFICATION OF KOREAN CONTINENTAL SHELF TREATY BY PRESENT DIET. POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT COULD NOT BE MORE INAUSPICIOUS -- LDP CONTROL OF BOTH HOUSES IN DIET HAS BECOME TENUOUS, POPULAR CONCERN OVER JAPAN'S ENERGY VULNERABILITY HAS DIMISHED SINCE DAYS OF OIL EMBARGO, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, OPPOSITION PARTIES ARE NOW ACTIVELY PURSUING ALLEGATIONS OF SHADY POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL CONNECTIONS BETWEEN ROK AND LDP. ON SAME DAY KIM AND PARK WERE LOBBYING FOR DIET APPROVAL OF TREATY, POTENTIAL NEW KOREAN SCANDAL -- ALLEGED REBATES ON SALES OF SEOUL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUBWAY CARS -- WAS SURFACED BY JCP IN DIET. (TOTAL PRICE OF JAPANESE CARS SOLD TO SEOUL SUBWAY IN 1973 RAN APPROXIMATELY TWO BILLION YEN (\$ 7 MILLION) HIGHER THAN DOMESTIC PRICE, LEADING TO SUSPICION SURPLUS HAD BEEN USED AS KICKBACKS TO JAPANESE POLITICIANS AND BUSINESSMEN). IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES IT IS UNLIKELY LDP DIET LEADERSHIP WILL RISK FLOOR FIGHT FOR SHELF AGREEMENT, PARTICULARLY BEFORE JULY UPPER HOUSE ELECTION. SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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